

**Montauk Fire District
November 4, 2025
Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:30 hours**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: James Wright
Richard Schoen
Michael Mirras
Carmine Marino

Also Present: Chief Peter Joyce, Jr., 2nd Asst. Chief Joseph McDonald, Treasurer Robert Hauser and Secretary-Deputy Treasurer Dawn E. Lucas

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Wright called the regular Commissioner Meeting to order at 18:30 hours and we all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Secretary's Report:

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Marino motioned to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2025 Budget Hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2025 Budget/ Workshop Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Building Use Request:

- Ms. Lucas presented a building use request from Lynden Restrepo (Ladies Auxiliary member) for the meeting room on December 13, 2025 from 10am- 2pm for her daughter's baby shower. There are no conflicts. Commissioner Marino motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Purchase Requisitions:

- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$4,148.21, (which is retail rate) waiting on discounted rate from our representative. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

Audit of Bills:

- Treasurer's Report- Mr. Hauser noted it's not complete because the bank statements were not ready, he will be back out to complete them. As far as the 2022 financial statements they are 99% ready but the auditors are claiming in 2022 more money was transferred into the Capital

Reserve than the board had authorized, \$12,100. If there is no support, the auditors will right it up in a management letter comment or side note to the financial statement. Then they will be able to issue them. That should be done by next meeting and then we will move to 2023, which will be done out here. Mr. Hauser noted this might not be the firm to stick with. He also stated the October reports will be complete for next meeting.

- Ms. Lucas presented the invoices for payment totaling \$27,882.48, Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus:

- No report- Commissioner McLean not present.

Equipment: Commissioner Marino gave his report;

- No report

Buildings & Grounds: Commissioner Marino gave his report;

- Masonry project is still not complete. The contractor came out for a couple of days, letters are in trailer but not up. Commissioner Marino will talk with John Tanzi about this.
- Chairman Wright asked about the fuel tanks. Commissioner Marino has a call into an engineer about this just waiting on a return call.
- Commissioner Marino is also trying to find someone to do the AC downstairs.
- Commissioner Marino also noted Brent will look into the door in front of 9-3-2 and 9-3-5.
- Chief Peter Joyce, Jr. asked about the lights at the end of the driveway. What is going on with them? Commissioner Marino stated they were suppose to be out to work on them. If no response, Ocean Electric has numerous trucks as per Chairman Wright.
- Chairman Wright thought we got all new lights. Commissioner Marino noted yes and we will be changing them out.

Budget and Capital Reserves:

- Commissioner Mirras noted the budget is done. Ms. Lucas stated the budget will be hand delivered to the town tomorrow. Budget is due to the Town by November 7th. Commissioner Mirras does not have the Capital Reserves because Treasurer's Report is not complete.

Insurance:

- No report- Commissioner McLean not present

Communications:

- Commissioner Mirras reminded the board about the siren replacement on Industrial Road next year.
- The Town Police- 911 is up and running but they have not made the changes and Commissioner Mirras is glad the board stuck with the 2 year contract with the Village. He does not believe they will be able to put it into full service in January.

Paid Personal:

- Chairman Wright noted no report but one of our paid paramedics mother is not doing well and might pass so he will not be making his shifts and there might be some overtime to cover.

Department Personal:

- Went into Executive Session.

Law: Vice-Chairman Schoen noted;

- No report

Old Business:

- **New Pumpers-** Ms. Lucas explained we received emails about going to see the new trucks at Firematic. Chief Joe McDonald stated after talking with the committee's the date agreed upon is next Wednesday November 12, 2025. Ms. Lucas explained insurance will need to be on the trucks to check them out and she will have that done beforehand. The VIN#'s were provided and forwarded to Commissioner McLean which Ms. Lucas believes was already sent over to Ecker's office. Chief McDonald noted when trucks arrive, one will be mocked up for tool placement and one will be used for driver training, then swapped. He also noted they will need the 5" hose off both trucks because the new hose delivery date is not expected till end of January. Vice-Chairman Schoen asked when the engines come everything is coming off the old and going onto the new, Chief McDonald said YES. Vice-Chairman Schoen also asked when do you think they will be available for sale. The chief's will get back to him on that. Chief Joyce and McDonald with other members of the truck committee will be going up next Wednesday November 12 to look at trucks.
- **Resolution-LOSAP 40-50yrs-** Ms. Lucas sent information to Tony Hill of Firefly who handles our LOSAP program that was discussed at a previous meeting and Tony wrote a resolution for us. Ms. Lucas sent over to our attorney Joe Frank to make sure it was, OK. He said NO, it needed to be adjusted. Tony revised the resolution and our attorney Joe Frank said it was good to go. This resolution needs to be approved so it can be put on ballot for the elections. Ms. Lucas also asked Joe Frank to make sure ballot was OK for election and he said it was good. Commissioner Mirras had a question about the amount each participating volunteer averages. Ms. Lucas and Mr. Hauser clarified it's the average cost per volunteer. Vice-Chairman Schoen read the Resolution into the minutes as follows;

In the matter of amending the Length of Service Award Program

WHEREAS, eligible voting residents of the Montauk Fire District approved a referendum to establish a defined benefit Length of Service Award Program (a "LOSAP") for active volunteer firefighters of the Montauk Fire Department in accordance with Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law (GML); and

WHEREAS, the Fire District is the LOSAP Sponsor and Program Administrator; and

WHEREAS, GML § 216 authorizes the Fire District, as LOSAP Sponsor, to amend the LOSAP; and

WHEREAS, a year of Service Credit is earned for each calendar year during which the active volunteer firefighter earns 50 or more points. Points are awarded for such things as attending training sessions, participating in drills, responding to calls, being an officer and other activities; and

WHEREAS, a participating active volunteer firefighter obtains a nonforfeitable right to a service award upon earning five (5) years of Service Credit, the attainment of the Entitlement Age of, death, or total and permanent disability; and

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2010, active volunteer firefighter members earn a \$30 monthly Service Award benefit for each year of Service Credit, and prior to January 1, 2010, a \$20 monthly Service Award benefit was earned for each year of Service Credit, all payable at the Entitlement Age of sixty-five (65); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 400 of the Laws of 2021 amended GML § 219 to allow a LOSAP sponsor to extend the maximum number of years of Service Credit for which a participating active volunteer firefighter may earn a Service Award from 40 to 50 years;

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners desires to amend the LOSAP to extend the maximum years of Service Credit for which a participating active volunteer can earn a Service Award from 40 to 50 years, and therefore the maximum benefit from \$1,200 to \$1,500, provided all years of Service Credit are earned after January 1, 2010;

WHEREAS, this amendment is consistent with the intent of the LOSAP to recruit, retain and reward volunteer firefighters; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirement of § 216(5) of the GML, the members of the Board who are also members of the Montauk Fire Department, have disclosed in writing their status as members of the Fire Department and, therefore, are eligible to vote on this resolution; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Montauk Fire District of the Town of East Hampton, County of Suffolk, State of New York, as authorized by Article 11-A of the GML, approves an amendment to the LOSAP pursuant to Chapter 400 of the Laws of 2021 to extend the maximum years of Service Credit that may be earned under the LOSAP from 40 to 50 years, effective January 1, 2026. Any active volunteer firefighter that had earned 40 years of Service Credit as of December 31, 2024 will be eligible to again earn Service Credit beginning in calendar year 2026.

The contribution for the LOSAP is currently about \$500,000. Of this total contribution, the component attributable to each participating volunteer firefighter who earns Service Credit averages about \$2,900. The total annual contribution made by the Fire District and the average cost per volunteer firefighter who earns Service Credit will not increase as a result of this amendment and, therefore, is estimated to remain at \$500,000 and \$2,900, respectively. The Fire District pays an additional \$11,000 annually in actuarial and administrative expenses which will not change as a result of this amendment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is subject to a mandatory referendum of qualified voters of the Montauk Fire District and said referendum shall be held on December 9, 2025, between the hours of 2:00 PM and 9:00 PM (prevailing time) at 12 Flamingo Avenue, Montauk, NY 11954.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposition placed before the qualified voters read as follows:

THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE MONTAUK FIRE DISTRICT, TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON, COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, STATE OF NEW YORK IN A RESOLUTION ADOPTED NOVEMBER 4, 2025 APPROVED AN AMENDMENT OF THE DEFINED BENEFIT LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM, ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT AND ESTABLISHED FOR ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OF THE MONTAUK FIRE DEPARTMENT, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026 TO EXTEND THE MAXIMUM YEARS OF SERVICE CREDIT FOR WHICH A PARTICIPATING ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER MAY EARN A SERVICE AWARD FROM 40 TO 50 YEARS, AND THEREFORE THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM \$1,200 TO \$1,500, PROVIDED ALL SERVICE CREDIT IS EARNED AFTER JANUARY 1, 2010. ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS THAT EARNED 40 YEARS OF SERVICE CREDIT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 CAN AGAIN BE ELIGIBLE TO EARN SERVICE CREDIT IN CALENDAR YEAR 2026.

THE CURRENT EXPECTED FUNDING CONTRIBUTION IS \$500,000, WHICH INCLUDES AN AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION FOR EACH PARTICIPATING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER WHO EARNS SERVICE CREDIT OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,900. THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION FOR THE AMENDED PROGRAM WILL NOT INCREASE AS A RESULT OF THIS AMENDMENT AND, THEREFORE, IS ESTIMATED TO REMAIN AT \$500,000. THE AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION PER PARTICIPATING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER WHO EARNS SERVICE CREDIT WILL ALSO REMAIN AT APPROXIMATELY \$2,900. THE DISTRICT PAYS ADDITIONAL ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF ABOUT \$11,000 WHICH WILL NOT CHANGE AS A RESULT OF THIS AMENDMENT.

SHALL THE STATED RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS BE APPROVED?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LOSAP shall continue to be administered by the Fire District and that all other provisions of the LOSAP shall remain the same.

Vice-Chairman Schoen would like to amend the resolution, where it states points are awarded, take out being an officer, there are no provisions in our point system for that. Ms. Lucas will amend.

Commissioner Schoen raised the motion to approve, Commissioner Mirras seconded the motion, and upon roll call the vote of the Board was as follows:

Commissioner Wright	Aye
Commissioner Schoen	Aye
Commissioner Marino	Aye
Commissioner Mirras	Aye
Commissioner McLean	Absent

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted with corrections. Dated: 11/04/2025.

- **Stair Chairs-** Vice-Chairman Schoen wanted to know where we stood on them. Four stair chairs were ordered for roughly \$26,000 and come to find out they do not fit. Ms. Lucas explained our representative Samantha from Stryker came out to check. Commissioner McLean was there and possibly Brent. Samantha did have a chair with her that fit and was figuring out how to get those. Vice-Chairman Schoen wanted to make sure they were of same value and if we send back, do we really need four. Commissioner Mirras noted they wanted a spare. Ms. Lucas will reach out to Samantha and find out what is going on. Vice-Chairman Schoen said the stair chairs were never put through the chief, they were included with the equipment needed from the ALS supervisor. Ms. Lucas believes the captain of Company 4 was consulted on the equipment before the request went in. What Vice-Chairman is saying it was lumped into a total amount for the equipment not itemized.
- **Policy's- Emergency Vehicle Response Guidelines and Vehicle Backing Practices-** Ms. Lucas noted the risk assessment meeting she had with VFIS regarding all the accidents that were happening. VFIS explained suggestions on what needed to be done to rectify the situation. Ms. Lucas had to respond to the recommendations and one recommendation was reducing preventable driving crashes, which the Chief has discussed at department meetings. Other suggestions are the Emergency Vehicle Response Guidelines and Vehicle Backing Practices. This was all discussed in September and Ms. Lucas told VFIS it would be discussed and approved tonight. Commissioner Mirras noted the board needs time to review it so it is tabled till next meeting.

New Business:

- Vice-Chairman Schoen suggested we research a new recording system so Ms. Lucas can properly do the minutes. It's time to upgrade. Ms. Lucas asked if there is a price limit, Vice-Chairman stated we are looking for quality.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief McDonald noted there is still no update on the new Tanker.
- A couple of the new probies are reconsidering their decision, didn't realize the time commitment but the others are doing great. Chief will have more information at next meeting.

- 9-3-8 is back as of today. Chief Joyce just needs a board member to call Richie Valcich from Emergency Mechanical to come to some sort of negotiation about the tires. Right now, the truck is not back in service until we know we are going to pursue buying these tires from Richie. We don't want to go into the woods on tires we don't own. Commissioner Mirras asked the chief if he likes the tires. Chief said yes, we can't go back now because the tires that were on it before were inappropriate. Believes there is no other option moving forward. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted we have to contact Richie Valcich to see how much he wants for them. Commissioner Mirras thought it needed a transfer case, it did and it was replaced. The chief's took it for a test drive and it road better than before. Vice-Chairman Schoen suggested the Chief contact Richie Valcich for a price quote for the tires. The chief will be glad to do that.
- Chief Joyce noted it has been requested by PD (Police) and the ambulance company, chief included to add the respective ambulance number to the corner of the box on the driver side. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief Joyce noted the ID printer for department members and paid staff is on it's way out. The new one that was requested for replacement is in the neighborhood of \$4,000.00. The chief believes it should be bought in the new year and give the members a fresh set of ID's.
- Chief Joyce was given a request for a Vital Signs Conference from November 11-15, 2025 in Syracuse, NY. Members requesting to go are Tom Barbieri, Donna Hitscherich, Jesse James and John Mark. We will need to give them a hotel, need to make sure there is availability because we are so close to the dates. Ms. Lucas asked if we can reimburse the members since the district does not have their new credit card yet. Chief does not have the cost of entry fee because he requested a list on classes they plan to attend. He also noted one member is interested in Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, one interested in Friday and two interested in Friday and Saturday. Chief said he got a request for 5 people to go with no information, but he requested more information, days they are going and classes being taken. Vice-Chairman Schoen asked in the Captain of company 4 approved it. Chief said YES and this letter was given to him from the captain of company 4 requesting funding for 5 members of company 4 to attend Vital Signs EMS Conference to be held from November 11-15, 2025 in Syracuse, NY. The conference will provide attendees both core and no-core CME and will expand their knowledge base as the conference presenters are drawn from a broad base of experience. Funding should include both conference fees as well as hotel costs assuming double occupancy. Captain of company 4 has been informed by Commissioner McLean the money is available because we haven't sent anyone for the last several years. Specific costs can not be quoted because it depends on what portions of the conference attendees register for, if more information is needed reach out to Ellen Cooke, Captain CO4. Vice-Chairman Schoen stated we have no cost factor to approve. Commissioner Mirras stated we have approved this in years past, he would like to approve. The board is going to go into Executive Session and the chief will figure out cost for conference and let the board know. Chief Joyce was able to come up with approximation of cost, registration fees about \$1,600, hotels \$406 per room for 2 rooms and then need one room for 4 nights, plus per diem rates. The district van is available for the the members that are going the weekend and the member going for 4 days can drive themselves. Original letter request was for five members, but Chief needed a more definite answer and now it's only four. Cost not to exceed \$5,000. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried. Ms. Lucas asked if we are going to reimburse the members since we don't have a credit card right now. Chief believes they each need to register because of their credentials, so it might be best to reimburse this

time. Chief did note he is less than enthused about how this was handled and made it be known.

Commissioner Marino motioned to go into Executive Session @ 19:15 regarding Personnel, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Commissioner Mirras motioned to go back into Regular Session @ 19:44 hours, seconded by Chairman Wright; motioned/passes/carried.

Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned/requests that the district provide the Benevolent Association each and every time a member of the Fire Department is either booted out or resigns in writing, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried. The reasoning behind this that members that get voted in and join the benevolent association can buy shares of stock and in two years leaves and the benevolent is not notified, without the benevolent being notified in writing they can accumulate but the benevolent rules state in order to benefit from the purchase of shares, the member needs to be in the department for five years, does not have to be consecutive. If you are not in five years then you forfeit your shares of stock and you can not sell any shares of your stock. This all came about because a previous member asked if they had money in the benevolent. This person left the department and was never removed from the rolls of the benevolent.

Chief McDonald came back to board with the truck that could go for sale first, 9-3-1A. So Vice-Chairman Schoen will take pictures and start listing it. Question arose what kind of pricing do we want for the apparatuses. Vice-Chairman Schoen had received appraisal information from Garage on the following trucks;

9-3-1- \$20-\$30,000 without engine replacement, 9-3-1A- \$15-\$25,000, 9-3-4- \$80-\$100,000,
Tanker- \$30- \$40,000

Chairman Wright stated in the past we did closed bids on vehicles, isn't that the way we have to it. Vice-Chairman Schoen stated we are required to seek out the best possible price we can get for disposing of equipment. We used to put ads in the local paper, even Newsday, this time around for the ambulance put it on 7 different websites and informed all of them about the trucks. Vice-Chairman Schoen needs a number to list with these sites. Chief's and the board discussed bids for websites, shoot for the moon right now and if we do not get any interaction then put in paper and figure out what is the least we will take. So pricing was discussed;

9-3-1- \$40,000, 9-3-1A-\$22,500., 9-3-4- \$90,000 and the tanker- \$40,000

Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to adjourn @ 20:05 hours, seconded by Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 20:05 hours